

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 00202 131223Z
ACTION EUR-12

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PASS LABOR DEPARTMENT FOR SECRETARY MARSHALL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, NO
SUBJECT: CHANGE IN LABOR MINISTERS IN NORWAY

REF: OSLO 0132

1. NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF LABOR LEIF AUNE LEFT THE CABINET JAN 11
AND WAS REPLACED BY ARNE NILSEN, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE STORTING'S
INDUSTRY COMMITTEE.

2. BELOW ARE DRAFT TEXTS OF LETTERS TO AUNE AND NILSEN THAT
THE SECRETARY MAY WISH TO USE:

QUOTE LEIF AUNE
MINISTRY OF LABOR AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
OSLO, NORWAY
DEAR MR. MINISTER:

IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU AS NORWAY'S
MINISTER OF LABOR. I WILL LONG RETAIN FOND MEMORIES OF MY
VERY USEFUL AND PLEASANT TRIP TO NORWAY LAST OCTOBER. YOU
AND MRS. AUNE WERE MOST GRACIOUS HOSTS TO ME AND MRS. MARSHALL.

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IT WAS ALSO AN HONOR TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH YOU IN
LEADING THE OECD CONFERENCE ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER.
I HOPE THE DISCUSSIONS AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THIS
URGENT PROBLEM WILL BE OF HELP TO ALL OF US IN FINDING
QUICK AND THOROUGH SOLUTIONS WHICH CAN HELP THE SITUATION.
I DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE
MEETING.

I UNDERSTAND YOU WILL BE WORKING NOW IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT. I RECALL FROM OUR MEETINGS LAST OCTOBER YOUR HIGH INTEREST IN AND KNOWLEDGE OF THIS FIELD, AND KNOW YOU WILL MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO NORWAY'S REGIONAL PROGRAMS. I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN YOUR NEW POSITION.

MRS. MARSHALL AND I SEND YOU AND MRS. AUNE OUR BEST WISHES FOR GOOD YEARS AHEAD, AND HOPE WE WILL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN BEFORE TOO LONG.

SINCERELY,
RAY MARSHALL
SECRETARY OF LABOR

ARNE NILSEN
MINISTER OF LABOR
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
OSLO, NORWAY

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

MY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ON ASSUMING THE POSITION OF MINISTER OF LABOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. AS YOU KNOWN, WHEN I WAS IN NORWAY LAST OCTOBER, I MET, IN ADDITION TO YOUR PREDECESSOR, LEIF AUNE, MANY OF THE STAFF IN YOUR MINISTRY. YOU ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH EXCELLENT PEOPLE HELPING YOU IN THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD WHICH POSES MANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR A MINISTER OF LABOR.

I KNOW YOU ALSO APPRECIATE THE VERY GOOD COMMUNICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND COOPERATION THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE LABOR DEPARTMENTS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IT IS MY HOPE THAT WE CAN KEEP THIS EXCHANGE GOING, AND I AM READY TO BE OF ANY HELP TO YOU THAT I CAN.

WISHING YOU EVERY SUCCESS, MR. MINISTER, I AM

SINCERELY,
RAY MARSHALL
SECRETARY OF LABOR END QUOTE

3. MINISTER NILSEN, 53 YEARS OLD, IS FROM NORWAY'S HORDALAND REGION (NEAR BERGEN), AND IS ONE OF THAT REGION'S LEADING LABOR PARTY FIGURES. NILSEN HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE STORTING FOR 12 YEARS, AND FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE. HE IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST PARLIAMENTARY TACTICIANS IN THE LABOR PARTY STORTING GROUP. NILSEN HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HAVING BEEN A MAYOR AND COUNCILMAN FOR SOME YEARS. HIS BACKGROUND IN LABOR IS DERIVED FROM HIS POSITION AS A LONG-TIME LEADER IN THE NORWEGIAN RAILROAD WORKERS' UNION. THE FEELING HERE IS THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF A TALENTED POLITICIAN LIKE NILSEN AS MINISTER OF LABOR

SUGGESTS A STRONG ROLE FOR THAT MINISTRY IN DEALING WITH THE
DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD FOR NORWEGIAN INDUSTRY.
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